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TO: Ch/G/RR 6 June 1960

FROM: Ch/D/GL/RR

SUBJECT: GRA Requirements on a Machine Translation Capability

A review of the present and potential Map Library Division needs for translation of foreign language documents into English, made in answer to the 27 May 1960 memorandum from the Chief of the Geographic Research Area to ascertain GRA language requirements, indicates the following:

a. Translation would be required chiefly in Bulgarian, Chinese, Czechoslovakian, German, Hungarian, Polish, Rumanian, and Russian.

b. Subject matter to be translated would comprise chiefly cartography, photogrammetry, geodesy, and geography. Agriculture, forestry, and geology, when related to mapping, would also be included.

d. The estimated amount of current material to be presented for translation each month is 800 pages from periodicals (about 20 periodicals of 40 pages each) and 1,500 pages from monographs (about 5 books of 200-400 pages each). In addition, there is a backlog of 200 periodicals of approximately 40 pages each (8,000 pages) and 25-50 books of 200-400 pages each (about 10,500 pages).

d. Machine translation capability would be of great use to the Map Library, particularly as related to collection support activities. A large part of the information needed to give solid guidance and operational support to the DD/P in the map collection field is extracted from open literature published in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. The amount of such openly available material increased at a much more rapid rate than the language capability that would be required to exploit it. In many cases, information from Bloc scientific literature is the only material that we have to work with in assessing collection targets.

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